

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and requisite fee have been submitted along with this Response. Since the Office Action was made final, the RCE was filed so that the Examiner would enter and consider the amendments and remarks of the present Response.

The Applicants' representative first wishes to thank Examiner Sing for the telephonic interview of January 29, 2004 in which the above-identified application was discussed. At the interview, a proposed set of claim amendments were presented and discussed in view of the references cited in the previous Office Actions. In particular, the interview mainly focused on discussing proposed independent claim 50, which generally corresponds to the new independent claim 50 submitted with this response. As discussed at the interview (and on page 14 of the application), the technique of claim 50 allows email messages sharing a common trait to be deleted over a public switched telephone network by a telephone, independent of the email system's capabilities. During the interview, the Examiner suggested some modifications to proposed independent 50, which have been generally incorporated into new independent claim 50 of the present response. Furthermore, the Examiner indicated that proposed claim 50 was allowable over the current references of record, but the Examiner indicated that claim 50 would not be entered in the case, since additional searching might be required. As a result, the RCE has been filed in the present response so that claim 50 and the other claims would be entered into the case for further consideration. Based on the Examiner's positive remarks as to the allowability of claim 50, it is believed that claim 50 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

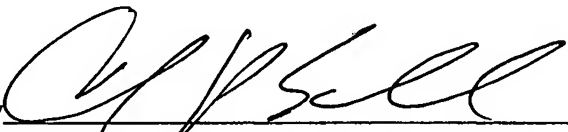
New independent claim 65 has been added with this response. Based on the discussion at the interview, it is believed that claim 65 is allowable over the references of record. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,960,395 to Tzirkel-Hancock fails to disclose or suggest “determining with the unified messaging system that an email message on the email server has the trait in common with the first message” and “deleting the email message from the email server in response to said determining without transmitting the email message to the telephone” as recited in claim 65. For this and other reasons, it is submitted that independent claim 65 and its dependent claims are allowable over the references of record.

Likewise, based on the discussion at the interview, it is believed that new independent claim 70 is allowable over the references of record. For example, the previously cited references fail to disclose or suggest that “the unified messaging system being operable to delete an email message from the email server in response to determining that the email message has the common trait in common with the first message” as recited in claim 70. For this and other reasons, it is submitted that independent claim 70 and its dependent claims are allowable over the references of record.

It should be understood that the above remarks are not intended to provide an exhaustive basis for patentability or concede the basis for the rejections in the Office Action, but are simply provided to overcome the rejections made in the Office Action in the most expedient fashion.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully Submitted,

By 
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